6: Grigolia E-4, 5 (no date) 1939 RI1 Georgia RI1

Georgi Bistlauri, related that twelve years ago two of his cousins, on their way to the sanctuary, bought from a Khevsur a lamb for one ruble and twenty kopeks. One of them paid his part of sixty kopeks, but the other, not having the money with him at the time, promised to pay after one year. But he did not keep his word, and the creditor chose a *mzevali,* who in turn chose another, and he another, etc. After twelve years the sixty kopeks of the original debt, the price of the half lamb, was transformed into that of sixty cows, or its equivalent—six hundred rubles—which makes one thousand times the original sum. Eristov[6] gives the following information concerning *mzevali:* "If a person does not pay a debt, or does not meet the obligations required by justice, the offended person goes to a stranger (who has no interest or connection with the proceedings), gives him as a gift one ruble and twenty kopeks, and proclaims him his *mzevali,* and in the meantime takes from him the whole amount of the debt owing to him by the prosecuted person. Three years after his appointment, the *mzevali* goes to the debtor and demands from him, instead of one ruble, twenty-one rubles. . . . In the event the debtor refuses to pay, the *mzevali* approaches another person as *mzevali* and takes from him the sum of money which he should have received from the debtor. In such a manner the office of *mzevali* may be transferred from one person to another, going to as many as twenty or thirty persons, and the debt multiplies twenty times every three years.

As contracts of partnership, we may consider also the rules relating to agriculture, fishing, and hunting.

There are no special restrictions for fishing. Fish are caught in various ways. When the Khevsurs or Tushes catch a large fish, the man who catches it gets the head, and the rest is divided into equal parts among the other fishermen.

Hunting is also free to the Georgian Highlanders.

Among the Khevsurs,[7] who love the dangerous sport of hunting mountain goats, when two or more hunters take part in an expedition, the pelt of the slain animal belongs to the hunter who kills it, the horns are given to the *khati* of the community as a

[6] Eristov: 133.
[7] *Ibid.,* 127.

7: Columbia U. S-4, 5 1956 RKI Caucasia RHI
(Georgia RI1

3. LAZ

C. G. 101 **NAME:** SELF-DESIGNATION: Lazi
RUSSIAN DESIGNATIONS: Lazy; for the language also: Chanskii iazyk.
OTHER DESIGNATIONS: (Turkish:) Lazi; (Georgian:) Ch'ani, the country: Ch'aneti.

C. G. 161 **NUMBER:** 1926 643 (Russian census, ethn.)
730 (Russian census, ling.)
The Turkish census of 1945 lists 46,987 speakers of Laz, so that the overwhelming majority of them live in Turkish territory.

C. G. 162 **LOCATION:** Between the Chorokh river and the Black Sea coast up to the area of Pazar (Atina) on Turkish territory; also in the Chkhala basin (left tributary of the Chorokh) on Russian territory), (Adzhar ASSR, within Georgian SSR).

C. G. 197 **LANGUAGE:** Laz (Ch'anuri nena) and the very closely related Mingrelian form the so-called Zan member of the S Caucasian (Kartvelian) language-group, which includes also Georgian and Svan. The language is not written, Georgian being used as literary language in the USSR, Turkish in Turkey.

SUBDIVISIONS: Two dialect-groups: West (Vitse-Arkhava and Atina) and East Laz (Hopa, Chkhala).

C. G. 241 226 **TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:** Agriculture, fishing, trade.

C. G. 795 **RELIGION:** Islam (Sunni)

C. G. 245 [251] pomegranates) are grown in abundance. They are preserved in sugar by a boiling-down process. C. G. 244 Important vegetables are lentils, beans, peas, onions, eggplants, celery, garlic, fennel, mustard and several kinds of cucurbitaceous plants. C. G. 231 The raising of silkworms is common, especially in the West. Beekeeping is widespread; hollwed-out logs are used as beehives; these are covered against the rain with pieces of bark or straw mats. Honey is also gathered from wild beees. C. G. 224 Hunting is of some importance in the highlands (deer, rabbits, fowl); it is traditionally engaged in by herdsmen, who take turns watching the herds. C. G. 226 Fishing is of importance only on the Black Sea coast and on the lower course of the rivers running into it.

C. G. 231 Because of the lack of pasture land, cattle-breeding is less important in the Georgian lowlands than it is in the mountains. The Georgians keep buffaloes, oxen, pigs, horses, donkeys, mules, goats and sheep. The latter usually are of the fat-tail variety, except among the Svan. C. G. 233 221 In summer, the herds are taken to the mountain pastures by herdsmen. The herds are led by a billy-goat and are kept together by goats; dogs accompany the herds only as protectors against wolves. To keep the latter at a distance, fires are kept going during the night.

Cattle and sheep breeding have a greater relative importance for the Svan and especially the Pshav and Tush. The latter are predominantly seminomadic herdsmen; the men